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October 14, 2011

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Fortieth District-California

The Honorable Raymond Edwin Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus:

I write you to share my concerns about the dire humanitarian conditions many in Libya are facing. As you know, the Transitional National Committee (TNC) faces an uncharted and daunting task of stabilizing and reforming a country that has been in a dictator's grasp for the last four decades. The considerable humanitarian suffering of many Libyans compounds these challenges.

Currently, Libya is ill-equipped to deal with the over 60,000 casualties that have resulted from its recent turmoil. Medical professionals and resources are in short supply. I would like to echo the call of others that we deploy a hospital ship, such as the *USNS Comfort*, to provide humanitarian relief. The TNC has made it clear that aiding the wounded and suffering in Libya is important to its rebuilding efforts.

This is a pivotal time for Libya. The United States has the opportunity to develop a strong partner in an unstable region. I urge you to assist with Libya's humanitarian needs so that the country can focus on rebuilding a better life for its people.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE

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GEORGE A. MIN